



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: March 13, 2012

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Proposal To Formally Establish The Santa Barbara Youth Council As A City Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Formally establish the Santa Barbara Youth Council as a City Advisory Committee; and
- B. Adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Establishing the Santa Barbara Youth Council.

DISCUSSION:

The Santa Barbara Youth Council has served in an advisory role to the Park and Recreation Commission and City Council for over 17 years. A review of City documents shows the Youth Council was never formally adopted by City Resolution as a City Advisory Committee as other advisory boards and commissions have been.

A group of stakeholders was convened to review the intent of the Youth Council and develop recommendations whereby the City Council would formally establish the Youth Council as a youth advisory board consistent with the City Charter.

The stakeholders included:

- Lesley Wiscomb, Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission
- Rocky Jacobson, Commissioner, Parks and Recreation Commission
- Cesar Trujillo, Member, Neighborhood Advisory Council
- Morgan Lunt, 2nd Vice Chair, Santa Barbara Youth Council (2011)
- Carole Green, Parliamentarian, Santa Barbara Youth Council (2011)
- Ivette Gil, Chair, Santa Barbara Youth Council (alternate) (2012)
- Sarah Hanna, Programs Manager, Parks and Recreation Department
- Susan Young, Neighborhood and Outreach Services Supervisor and Staff Advisor to the Santa Barbara Youth Council

The stakeholder group's draft Proposal to Formally Establish the Santa Barbara Youth Council as a City Advisory Committee was approved by the Youth Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Youth Council Background

Over the last several years, Youth boards, commissions or councils have grown in popularity in cities across the nation. The National League of Cities lists over 140 local youth councils throughout the nation. Adult change makers have found these entities are an effective way to involve youth in shaping policy, improving services, and developing youth leaders. The City of Santa Barbara has also utilized youth leaders in such service.

In 1991, the City Council created a Youth Task Force in response to heightened concerns about the needs of youth. Out of the discussions from this Youth Task Force came a recommendation, among others, to provide a method for young people to have a voice in government through a Youth Council, town meetings, or youth representation on City boards and commissions. In 1994, the City created the United Youth Empowered (UYE), a youth leadership group, which functioned as a voice for teens by facilitating youth forums, publishing a youth magazine, and assisting with the planning of teen activities.

In 1997, UYE began to be identified as the Santa Barbara Youth Council, functioning as an advisory board for the Park and Recreation Department's Teen Programs and actively participating in the development of public policy by working with the City Council and other local officials. The Youth Council has continued to function as an advisory board to the City Council, the Parks and Recreation Commission and other boards and commissions in the City. The Youth Council was instrumental in helping draft policy for a social host ordinance adopted by local jurisdictions including the City of Santa Barbara, conducting youth forums on issues such as graffiti, teen rights, and bullying, and assisting in the development of the City's skate park and Twelve35 teen center.

Proposal to Formally Establish the Youth Council

Over six meetings the stakeholder group finalized the draft Proposal to Formally Establish the Santa Barbara Youth Council as a City Council Advisory Committee. The stakeholder group was charged with reviewing and establishing the purpose, duties, membership, appointments, organization, terms and format of the Youth Council which would be forwarded to the Youth Council, Parks and Recreation Commission and to the City Council for consideration.

Summary of Proposed Changes

The essential purpose and duties of the Youth Council are not proposed to change in any significant way. The key changes as proposed include the following:

Membership	Reduced from 17 to 15 members. To encourage diversity and expand leadership opportunities, member composition was expanded to include alternative, community and continuation high schools, and the requirement that 8 of the 15 be City residents.
Application, Interview, and Appointments	Application, interview and appointments of new Youth Council members shifted from Youth Council to City Council. See Youth Council Appointment Process below.
Meetings	Changed from holding at least two regular meetings per month to minimum of once per month, plus any additional meetings as determined by Youth Council action.
Term	Currently, Youth Council members serve from time of appointment until resignation, removal or graduation from 12 th grade. Proposed that members will serve a two-year term, and may be appointed to multiple terms.

Youth Council Appointment Process

During the stakeholder group meetings, the group spent considerable time on the membership and appointment process. Currently, the Youth Council conducts interview and appointment of potential members separate from any other City process. Under the City Council Advisory Committee recruitment and appointment process, potential candidates apply through the City Clerk's Office, and are interviewed by City Council prior to City Council appointment. The stakeholder group wanted to ensure that the makeup of the Youth Council reflected the diversity of the city's youth and to maintain the Youth Council's input as it relates to appointments. Under the draft proposal, Youth Council appointments would be incorporated into the semi-annual City Council Advisory Committee recruitment and appointment process. However, as part of the process, Youth Council candidates would first be interviewed by the Youth Council with the Youth Council forwarding their recommendations to the City Council. Youth Council candidates will also be interviewed by the City Council consistent with the process for other City boards and commissions.

Transition to New Membership and Staff Recommendation

The stakeholder group did not discuss the transition in membership between the current Youth Council members and the new proposed Santa Barbara Youth Council should the resolution be approved. Currently five of the appointed 17 Youth Council members are high school seniors whose terms will end in June. Of the remaining 12 members, five attend San Marcos High School, two attend Dos Pueblos High School, two attend Santa Barbara High School, and three attend private high schools. Of those 12, six members are City residents.

Given that the current make-up of the Youth Council does easily transition to the new membership representation and residency, staff proposes that current Youth Council be dissolved effective June 30, 2012, and an application and interview process for the 15 members be conducted by the City Clerk's office this spring, with terms beginning July 1, 2012. The process would follow the current City Council advisory group interview process guidelines, adding a recommendation from the current Youth Council as proposed in the draft resolution and a lottery to stagger member terms.

Youth Council and Park and Recreation Commission Recommendations

The Youth Council approved the proposal at their October 10, 2011 special meeting. At their October 26, 2011 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission approved the draft Proposal to Formally Establish the Santa Barbara Youth Council as a City Advisory Committee and recommended that the proposal be submitted to the City Council for consideration.

ATTACHMENT: Proposed Santa Barbara Youth Council Purpose and Duties

PREPARED BY: Susan Young, Neighborhood and Outreach Services
Supervisor

SUBMITTED BY: Sarah Hanna, Recreation Programs Manager

APPROVED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

**City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department**

PROPOSED SANTA BARBARA YOUTH COUNCIL PURPOSE & DUTIES

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Santa Barbara Youth Council is to advise, comment, and make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission, other City boards and commissions, and City staff on issues that primarily affect youth of Santa Barbara. The Santa Barbara Youth Council is to be the “voice” of the Santa Barbara youth community, identifying issues and other needs of Santa Barbara youth.

II. Duties

The Santa Barbara Youth Council shall perform a variety of guidance and support functions. The scope of such involvement will include, but not be limited to the following:

- A. Represent community youth to ensure their concerns, issues, and viewpoints are represented.
- B. Identify concerns, interests, and needs of Santa Barbara youth and make recommendations to the City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Parks and Recreation Department staff regarding such concerns, interests, and needs.
- C. Promote and encourage youth interest and participation in community affairs.
- D. Gather youth and community input through civic engagement activities. Create and/or support opportunities for public discussion through forums, meetings, workshops, and conferences. Share information gathered and make recommendations as appropriate.
- E. Collaborate and/or engage with other community agencies, advisory bodies or youth groups in areas of mutual concern and benefit.
- F. Recommend to the City Council, various city departments and agencies, as appropriate, changes in procedures, policies and/or legislation pertinent to youth in Santa Barbara.

III. Membership

The Santa Barbara Youth Council shall be composed of fifteen (15) members between the ages of 13-19 years. The membership of the Santa Barbara Youth Council shall be further defined as follows:

- Nine members shall be representatives from the three Santa Barbara School District High schools (Santa Barbara High School, San Marcos High School and Dos Pueblos High School), three from each school
- Two members from local alternative, community, or continuation high schools
- Two members from local private high school or independent studies,
- Two members at large, which may or may not attend any high school
- Of the fifteen members, eight must be residents of the City of Santa Barbara

The Youth Council may create non-voting positions for up to five junior high school students to encourage and involve junior high school age students in Youth Council activities.

IV. Appointments

Youth Council members shall be appointed through an application and interview process. One interview will be conducted by the Youth Council. The Youth Council will develop recommendations to present to the City Council. The second interview will take place as part of the City Council Advisory Committee Interview Process. The Youth Council Chair, or a designee of the Youth Council, shall report to the City Council on the Youth Council recommendations. Appointments will be made by the City Council upon completion of the recruitment and interview process.

V. Organization

The Santa Barbara Youth Council shall meet at a minimum once of per month on a day and time established by Youth Council action. The Youth Council shall elect from their membership a Chair and Vice Chair, who shall serve in such capacity for terms of one year each. The Youth Council may adopt by-laws by Youth Council action. The Youth Council is required to follow all aspects of the Brown Act. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. Three(s) unexcused absences within a twelve (12) month period may result in recommendation that member be removed from the Youth Council.

VI. Terms

Members shall serve two-year terms. Each term of office shall begin on July 1st and expire on June 30th of the appropriate year. Members may be appointed to multiple terms. If a vacancy occurs prior to the expiration of a term, the City Council may appoint a successor for the remaining portion of the term.

VII. Administration

The Santa Barbara Youth Council shall provide an annual written report to the City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission in July. In addition, the Santa Barbara Youth Council shall prepare other written reports as requested by the City Council, the Parks and Recreation Commission, or other City boards and commissions.